

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. 88801022.5
No. S. B. D. 24
Date August 7, 1931.

Subject (in full) Supplementary statement of Hsieh Hsin-fu (谢信富).

Made by and Forwarded by D. I. Ross

I forward herewith a supplementary statement taken by me from Hsieh Hsin-fu (谢信富) regarding the obtaining by him of a handbag and certain articles of clothing from an unknown boat woman at Henli.

He was repeatedly asked his object in retaining the property but steadfastly refused to answer. No doubt he was under the impression that after having the property in his possession for such a long time, no enquiries would be instituted.

Yang Ah Sz (杨阿士), his relative, was also interviewed by the undersigned and Clerk Zung on August 6, and corroborated in part the statement made by Hsieh. She also stated that after receiving the bag she placed it under her bed without examining the contents.

D. I. Ross

|| Suggest that a copy of each of report and statement be handed to the C.A.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

D. I. Ross

D. I. (Brime)

Subject to your agreement, the suggestion of Det. Insp. Ross will be carried out.

Done / JBR / 9/8

7-8-31

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT OF POLICE INVESTIGATIONS.

The following is the ^{SUPPLEMENTARY} statement of Hsien Hsin Fu (谢信富)
native of _____ taken by me D. I. Ross
at _____ on the August 7, 1931 and interpreted by Clerk Z.O. Zung.

Hsien Hsin Fu, age 42, native of Ningpo. When I obtained the handbag from the old woman, four labels which had become loose through the bag having been immersed in the water fell off into the creek. One of the labels had certain Chinese characters on it two of which I recognised as 'Shanghai'. I did not at any time clean the bag but only put it in the sun to dry. I kept the bag and the other articles in the Rowing Club's matshed at Henli for about ten days after which I took them to Shanghai and deposited them with ~~his~~^{my} cousin's sister named Yang Ah Sz (杨阿四), who is employed as an amah with a Chinese family named Poo (浦), at No. 465A Yee Ching Li (世慶里) off Manila Road. I remained in Shanghai for one day after which returned to Henli. I did not tell anyone about my find. On Saturday last, August 1, I was approached at Henli ^{by} an unknown foreigner, who questioned me about the handbag but I denied having ever seen it. However, on Sunday, August 2, I came to Shanghai and after obtaining the bag and its contents from my relative I took it to the S.V. Club and on the morning of August 3, I informed Mr. Wang Hsieh Chi (汪協記), caterer to the Rowing Club, about the matter. He ordered me to take the articles to the Rowing Club, which I did on the same date. On the morning of August 4, the matter was brought to the notice of the Captain of the Rowing Club by Mr. Wang.

Thorburn Case.

Accompanied by Mr. R.G. Woodhead, of the Shanghai Power Company, I went to the Shanghai Rowing Club Club-house on Soochow Creek at 5 p.m. on 4th August, 1931. I there saw Mr. Wang Hsieh Chi (王希之), caterer to the Rowing Club, and a coolie named Hsieh Hsin-fu (許信富), who acts as caretaker for the caterer's stocks of wines and stores at the Rowing Club's matshed at Henli. The coolie, he stated, had been in his employment for two years.

The coolie, Hsieh Hsin-fu, stated as follows, his remarks being interpreted by Mr. Ling, interpreter to H.B.M. Consulate-General : -

Just before tiffin time, about ten days after the regatta, an old man owning a piece of ground opposite the Club building at Henli, told me that a Chinese woman who works in the fields there and has a small boat had found some foreign clothes in a creek about a li away. I myself went alone about three hours later to the woman's boat and got the clothes and bag from her. She said the things has been in the creek, and when I got the bag, it had water in it. I had a bit of an argument with the woman as she wanted to keep the things but I insisted that they belonged to foreigners at the Club, and eventually took them away and put them in the Rowing Club's matshed at Henli. Ten days later, as the things were getting mouldy, I took them to Shanghai and gave them and the bag to my sister who works as an amah in a Chinese family.

Last week-end a foreigner came out to Henli and asked me about the matter. No one of the Club had asked me before that date; other foreigners, not belonging to the Club, had, but I had not understood their questions.

The day before yesterday (i.e. Sunday) I came into

Shanghai and took the bag and clothes to the Shanghai Volunteer Corps Club and yesterday morning told Mr. Wang, who is the caterer to the Shanghai Volunteer Corps. I do not know the names of the old man or the woman with the boat. I did not see a foreigner wearing the brown clothes (produced from the bag) come to the Rowing Club's match at Henli.

A young Chinese boy belonging to a houseboat borrowed by Mr. Brown but owned by Dr. R.C. Robertson of the Shanghai Municipal Council Health Department (? Lester Institute) told me that he had about the same time, ten days after the regatta, seen a foreigner who looked crazy walking to and fro at the side of the creek and asking for the hire of a sampan.

The coolie was extremely frightened, and though voluble, several times avoided giving direct answers, and on the whole gave me the impression of not telling all that he knew. I took over possession of the bag and clothes and had them carried to the Consulate. The bag is a leather 'grip' with two leather handles on top: the lettering on one end had been washed out, but a letter "A" (apparently part of the initials of a person's name) and beneath that the word "Shanghai" could be distinguished. The clothes in the bag consist of one dark brown jacket, one dark brown pair of trousers to match, one Jaeger cholera belt, and one brown shoe. There were no markings visible on any of the garments.

A.L. Scott.
5th. August, 1931
/P.S.

P.S. Mr. Wang, the caterer, promised to obtain the address of the coolie's sister for me. The coolie himself refused to say. The Police would doubtless be able to assist, but the point does not seem a material one.
